

C.P.S.,
Post Office Box 1478
STATION "M"
CALGARY, ALBERTA
T2P 2L6

Calgary STAMPede

OCTOBER 1992
VOLUME 12, NUMBER 4

To:

Air Mail Par avion



'Calgary STAMPede' is published five times per year by the Calgary Philatelic Society. It is copyright by the C.P.S., except signed articles, which are copyright by the author. All rights reserved. Written permission is required to reprint articles.

Articles or ads should be submitted to the Editor, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7. Small ads are free to paid-up members of the C.P.S.; maximum ten lines including name and address. Display ads are \$10 per full page per issue, for camera-ready copy. No partial-page display ads accepted.

The Calgary Philatelic Society was founded in 1922. It is Chapter 66 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and Chapter 1360 of the American Philatelic Society. The C.P.S. may be contacted at Box 1478, Stn M, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6.

Membership fee for 1992-93 is \$10, plus a \$5 initiation fee for new members.

1992-93 EXECUTIVE

President	Charles Dryden	276-9802
Past-President	Phil Wolf	259-8750
Vice-President	Walter Herdzik	274-1981
Secretary	Don Wilson	284-4479
Treasurer	Brenda Rosvick	274-4712
Directors - ex officio	Phil Wolf	259-8750
1st year	Clive Brown	241-2267
1st year	Mirko Zatka	242-1686
2nd year	Bruce Irvine	243-2999
2nd year	Bob Monilaws	277-5128

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	243-1752
Auction - regular	Doug Kollar	239-1965
Auction - silent	Greg Lang	282-1644
Circuit books	Ernie Bell	288-3042
Editor	Dale Speirs	243-1752
Membership	John Van Staden Jr.	285-1874
Private treaty books	Bob Hoffmann	274-2425
Programs	Ed Harris	274-0021
Sergeant-At-Arms	Walter Herdzik	274-1981
Sunday bourse	Walter Jackson	242-4128
Library	Penny Borrowman	247-1525

HOW EXPENSIVE IS POSTAGE? by Dale Speirs

People grumble and complain about the high cost of postage but often forget that while postage rates have gone up, so has hourly income. I have prepared a table that shows a comparison of hourly wages, domestic postage rate, international postage rate, the percentage of an hour's pay needed for a stamp. The hourly wage figures are from Statistics Canada; from 1969 to date, the wage is the average for Alberta, prior to that it is the average for Canada. For 1900 and earlier, it is estimated using index figures, as the government did not track hourly wages before the 1900s. The domestic letter rate is for mail from one city to another; it should not be confused with the drop letter rate, long since extinct. The international rate is the rate to Great Britain; before uniformity was established the rate varied for different countries. Since most Canadian overseas mail was to Britain in the old days, I used that rate. All rates are for first-class mail at one ounce prior to metrication; after metrication, the weight limit became thirty grammes for domestic and twenty grammes for international. Since Calgary was founded in 1875, I only went back to that year.

Year	Hourly wage	Domestic rate	% of pay	International rate	% of pay
1875	\$0.30	6¢	20%	10¢	34%
76	"	"	"	"	"
77	"	"	"	"	"
78	0.33	"	18.2	"	30.3
79	0.25	"	24	"	40
1880	0.26	"	23.1	"	38.5
81	0.26	"	23.1	"	38.5
82	0.25	"	24	"	40
83	0.25	"	24	"	40
84	0.23	"	26.1	"	43.5
85	0.22	"	27.3	"	45.5
86	0.21	"	28.6	"	47.6
87	0.20	"	30	"	50
88	0.21	"	28.6	"	47.6
89	0.22	3¢	13.6	"	45.5
1890	0.22	"	13.6	"	45.5
91	0.22	"	13.6	"	45.5
92	0.20	"	15	"	50
93	0.20	"	15	"	50
94	0.19	"	15.8	"	52.6
95	0.19	"	15.8	"	52.6
96	0.18	"	16.7	"	55.6
97	0.19	"	15.8	"	52.6
98	0.19	"	15.8	"	52.6
99	0.20	2¢	10	4¢	20
1900	0.22	"	9.1	"	18.2
01	0.21	"	9.5	"	19
02	0.22	"	9.1	"	18.2
03	0.23	"	8.7	"	17.4
04	0.24	"	8.3	"	16.7
05	0.24	"	8.3	"	16.7

[continued next page]

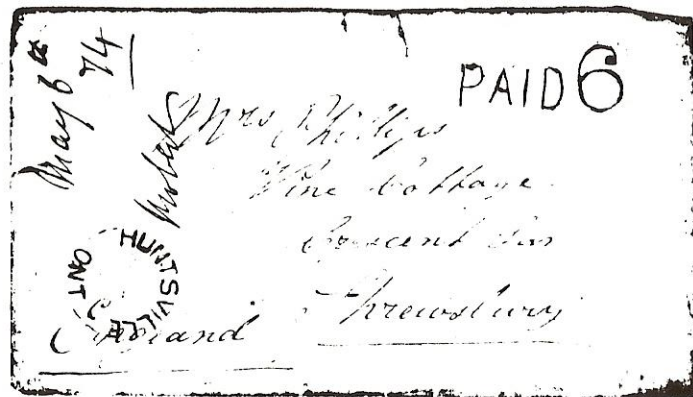
Year	Hourly wage	Domestic rate	% of pay	International rate	% of pay
1906	\$0.25	2¢	8%	4¢	16%
07	0.26	"	7.7	"	15.4
08	0.27	"	7.4	2¢	7.4
09	0.27	"	7.4	"	7.4
1910	0.28	"	7.1	"	7.1
11	0.28	"	7.1	"	7.1
12	0.29	"	6.9	"	6.9
13	0.30	"	6.7	"	6.7
14	0.30	"	6.7	"	6.7
15	0.30	"	6.7	"	6.7
16	0.33	3¢	9.1	3¢	9.1
17	0.37	"	8.1	"	8.1
18	0.43	"	7	"	7
19	0.51	"	5.9	"	5.9
1920	0.61	"	4.9	"	4.9
21	0.56	"	5.4	"	5.4
22	0.53	"	5.7	4¢	7.5
23	0.54	"	5.6	"	7.4
24	0.55	"	5.5	"	7.3
25	0.55	"	5.5	"	7.3
26	0.55	2¢	3.6	3¢	5.5
27	0.56	"	3.6	"	5.4
28	0.56	"	3.6	"	5.4
29	0.58	"	3.4	"	5.2
1930	0.58	"	3.4	"	5.2
31	0.56	"	3.6	"	5.4
32	0.52	3¢	5.8	"	5.8
33	0.50	"	6	"	6
34	0.50	"	6	"	6
35	0.52	"	5.8	"	5.8
36	0.53	"	5.7	"	5.7
37	0.57	"	5.3	"	5.3
38	0.58	"	5.2	"	5.2
39	0.58	"	5.2	"	5.2
1940	0.60	"	5	"	5
41	0.66	"	4.5	"	4.5
42	0.72	"	4.2	"	4.2
43	0.80	4¢	5	4¢	5
44	0.70	"	5.7	"	5.7
45	0.69	"	5.7	"	5.7
46	0.71	"	5.6	"	5.6
47	0.81	"	4.9	"	4.9
48	0.92	"	4.3	"	4.3
49	0.99	"	4	"	4
1950	1.04	"	3.8	"	3.8
51	1.18	"	3.4	"	3.4
52	1.30	"	3.1	"	3.1
53	1.36	"	2.9	"	2.9
54	1.41	5¢	3.5	5¢	3.5
55	1.45	"	3.4	"	3.4

Year	Hourly wage	Domestic rate	% of pay	International rate	% of pay
1956	\$1.52	5¢	3.3%	5¢	3.3%
57	1.61	"	3.1	"	3.1
58	1.66	"	3	"	3
59	1.73	"	2.9	"	2.9
1960	1.79	"	2.8	"	2.8
61	1.83	"	2.7	"	2.7
62	1.88	"	2.7	"	2.7
63	1.95	"	2.6	"	2.6
64	2.02	"	2.5	"	2.5
65	2.12	"	2.4	"	2.4
66	2.25	"	2.2	"	2.2
67	2.40	"	2.1	"	2.1
68	2.58	"	1.9	"	1.9
69	2.90	6¢	2.1	6¢	2.1
1970	3.18	6¢	1.9	6¢	2.1
71	3.47	7¢	2	7¢	2
72	3.74	8¢	2.1	30¢	8
73	4.11	"	1.9	"	7.3
74	4.66	"	1.7	"	6.5
75	5.53	"	1.4	"	5.4
76	6.25	10¢	1.6	"	4.8
77	6.97	12¢	1.7	20¢	2.9
78	7.46	14¢	1.9	30¢	4
79	8.21	17¢	2.1	35¢	4.3
1980	9.21	"	1.8	"	3.8
81	10.49	"	1.6	"	3.3
82	11.94	30¢	2.5	60¢	5
83	11.07	32¢	2.9	64¢	5.8
84	12.38	32¢	2.6	64¢	5.2
85	12.64	34¢	2.7	68¢	5.4
86	12.93	34¢	2.6	68¢	5.2
87	13.12	36¢	2.7	72¢	5.5
88	13.52	37¢	2.7	74¢	5.5
89	14.22	38¢	2.7	76¢	5.3
1990		39¢		78¢	
91		40¢		80¢	
92		42¢		84¢	

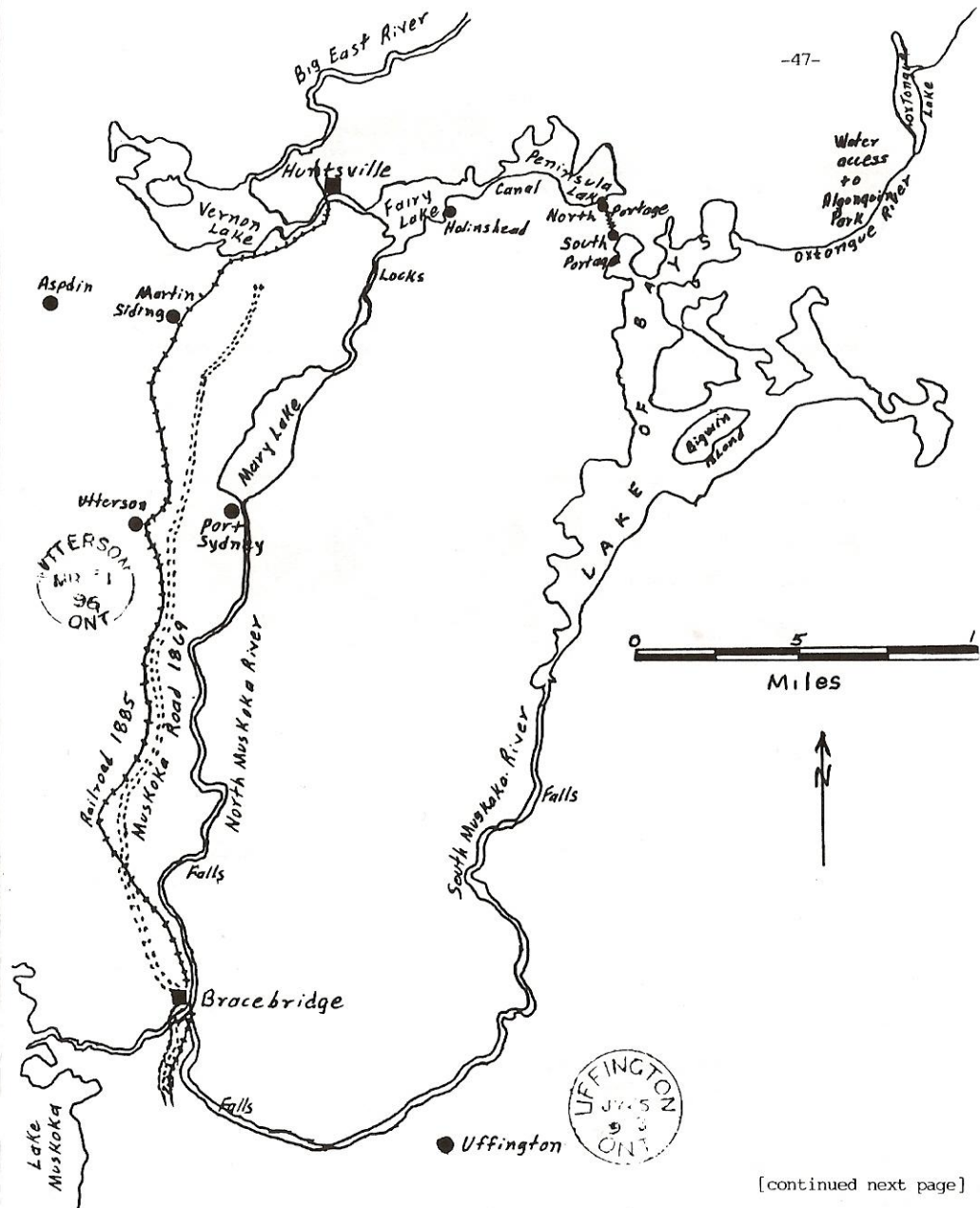
When one sees the postage rates adjusted for inflation as above, it is obvious that rates are not excessive compared to historical trends. Surprisingly, the cheapest domestic postage was during the 1970s, traditionally thought of as a time of excessive inflation. Even the Great Depression couldn't match this. International rates have come down as steamships were replaced with aircraft; the sudden jump in 1972 is due to compulsory airmail, but the relative rate has remained constant in the 1980s. It now only takes about 5% of an hour's pay to send a letter to Britain, or about three to five minutes work. In the 1800s, it would have cost you thirty minutes pay and much worse service. There is a rise and fall to the relative postal rates after inflation is taken into account in this manner. Rates do not increase indefinitely; they may decline as new methods of carrying the mails are introduced or as wages race ahead of postal increases.

My collecting interest centres on the Huntsville area because that is the home town I left in 1941. My grandparents homesteaded on what is now an Ontario Heritage Farm on Fairy Lake, northeast of Huntsville, in 1869, at about the same time as Captain Hunt arrived, for whom the town was named. The Muskoka Road ended four miles south of what is now the centre of town, where Highway 11 crosses the north branch of the Muskoka River. Those last four miles would have passed through dense stands of mixed hardwood and softwood forest and rock outcroppings such as would never have been seen on the prairies. My father was born in a log cabin January 5, 1873. The first doctor arrived in the area in 1875.

I do not know when the post office opened. My earliest cover is cancelled without a dater but is backstamped "BRACEBRIDGE AP 20" and "SHREWSBURY MY 6 74".



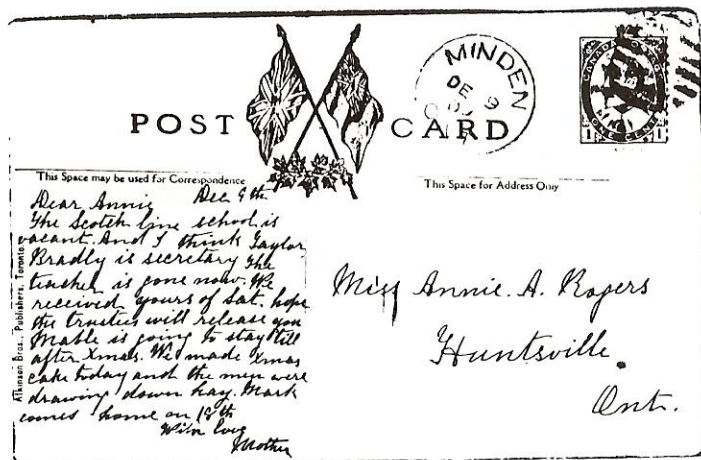
backstamps



[continued next page]

There were 400 residents when Huntsville was incorporated in 1886. Mr. L.E. Kinton was postmaster then. My grandmother talked of riding a horse to Bracebridge for registered mail, a trip of 26 miles. From 1875 to 1885, service to Huntsville was by steamboat from Port Sydney on Mary Lake. In 1885, the Northern and Pacific Junction Railway was extended from Gravenhurst. Steamboat service continued to play an important part, and at one time there were as many as ten boats in the area. These carried passengers, mail, and freight to wherever they could dock. The last ones succumbed to the automobile in the late 1940s.

I also have some material from the Minden area of the Haliburton District. My mother was born August 17, 1886, near Minden, again in a log house. Mother arrived in Huntsville on January 2, 1909, to teach in the Brunel No. 5 county school. On a card to her mother in Minden, she states that her mail would be better at Huntsville than at Emberson. I believe a cover postmarked Emberson would be a rarity.

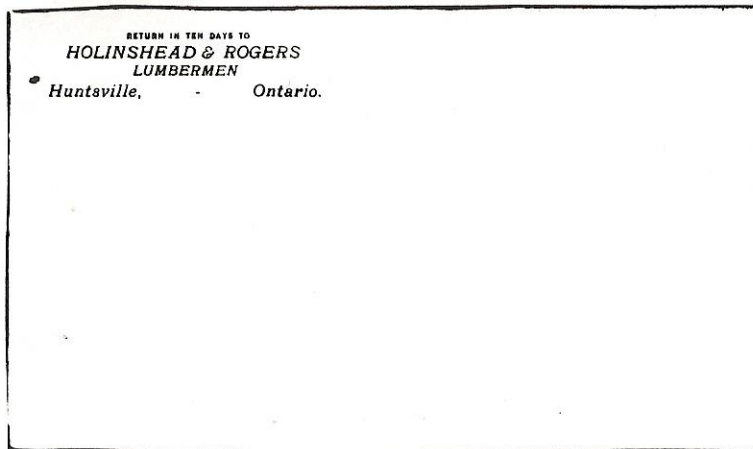
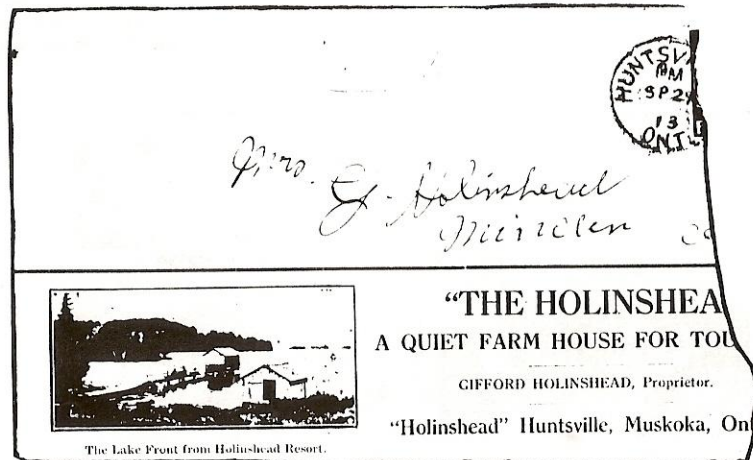


By 1900 Grandfather had built a fine two-story house and was catering to tourists. He passed away in 1908 and Father carried on the business. In 1910, Mother gave up teaching to marry Father, and together they accommodated tourists, hunters, and fishermen.

Road travel was poor and round about. Basically access was by boat in summer and on the ice in winter. During this time they had a fine advert cover with the cachet across the bottom. I am sure there are some good postally-used covers somewhere.

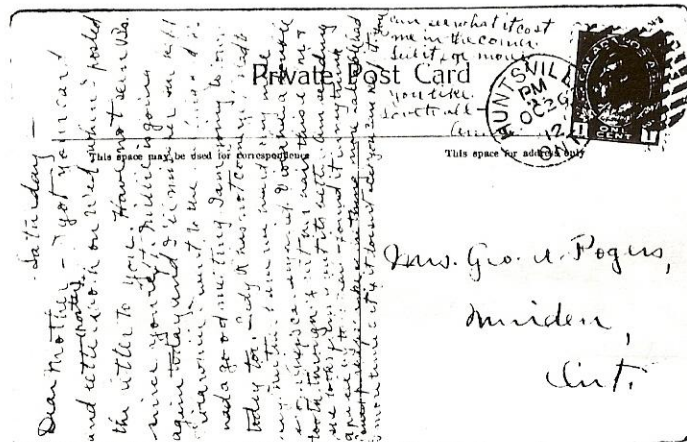
[continued next page]

In 1919 they sold to my uncle and moved to Huntsville, where Father was involved in various ventures. I have unused copies of one cover with the corner card "Holinshead and Rogers" and there may be others. This was the era when advert covers flourished. At the time of his death in 1929 he operated the Star Durrant auto dealership. It would be interesting to find a cover from this business.



[continued next page]

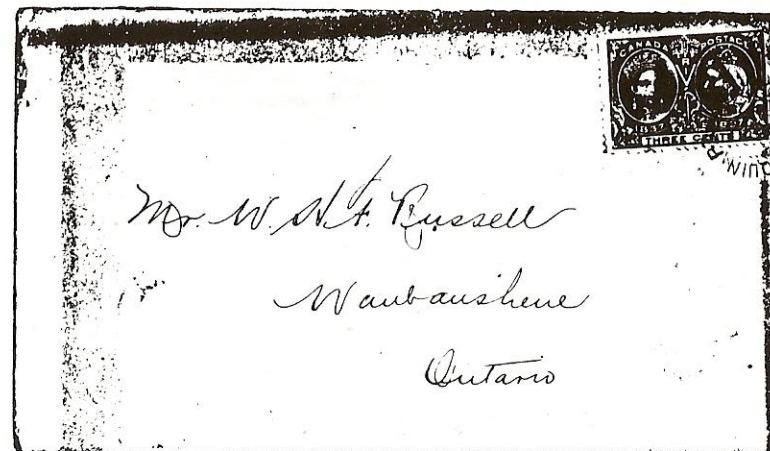
In 1926, a grand new townhall building was erected to house the Post Office and all other town facilities. This included the town clerk's office, police station and jail, fire hall, civic auditorium, and a caretaker's apartment. The clock which surmounted this fine new building had adorned the Union Station in Toronto for fifty-six years and is still going. The Post Office moved out to a separate building in 1955, and the old building is now a senior citizen centre. Wm. Mayhew was Postmaster for 33 years ending in 1941, and Sid Davis filled the position to 1961. There was general delivery and box service, and the clerks knew just about everyone in town. My sister remembers we had Box 405.



From my personal recollection, the mail train arrived from the south shortly after noon, dropping off mail at Utterson and Martin Siding. Mail for Port Sydney and Aspdin went on by car. The steamer "Algonquin" met the train at the station wharf. The steamer went downriver through a swing bridge at Main Street (No. 11 Highway) to Fairy Lake, then through a canal to Peninsula Lake at North Portage. A one-mile narrow gauge railway transferred passengers, mail, and freight to South Portage on Lake of Bays where the steamer "Iroquois" was waiting. Stops were made at many small places where there were mainly seasonal post offices. One of the most noteworthy of these was Bigwin Inn on Bigwin Island.

[continued next page]

Algonquin Provincial Park east of Huntsville was established by legislative act in 1893. In November 1894, the end of steel of the Ottawa-Arnprior and Parry Sound Railway had reached Cache Lake, and the Park Headquarters was moved here from Canoe Lake at this time. I believe the Algonquin Park post office was located in the Headquarters area. The line was completed, crossing the line north from Huntsville at Scotia Junction in 1895. The cover shown below [with enlargement of partial strike] was posted from Algonquin Park to Waubaushene OC 15 97, and bears a transit strike at Ottawa the same date.



NOW AVAILABLE!

The C.P.S. has published a book "History of the Calgary Philatelic Society", which is now available at \$2 a copy. This book covers the history of the club from its founding in 1922 to early 1992. It is 64 pages and illustrated throughout. Included with the main chronological account are various lists of club officers and appendices on various subjects. The book is digest size and professionally printed on coated paper.

You can get a copy for \$2 from Dale Speirs at the general meetings. Mail orders should include an extra \$2 to cover postage and be sent to the CPS, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7.

MEMBERSHIPS

Dues are now due for the 1992-93 season, and remain at \$10. (New members must also pay a one-time initiation fee of \$5). See John Van Staden Jr. or Brenda Rosvick at the meetings.

Members are reminded that any enquiries about missing bulletins should be directed to John Van Staden Jr. (285-1874). The most common reasons why bulletins were not received are:

- 1) Didn't renew in time. Mailing labels are printed out a few weeks in advance of your receiving Calgary STAMPede, so if you only paid your dues the night before, your name would not be on the list.
- 2) Moved house and didn't tell us.
- 3) Poor handwriting on your membership application. Don't make us guess if that wavy line means "Crowchild Trail" or "Cartwright Drive", or if that vertical line is house number "1" or "7". Print clearly.

STUDY GROUPS

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society meets second Wednesdays. Contact Jim Karr at 287-0897.

Australasian Study Group meets third Wednesdays. Contact Jon Johnson (282-9775).

Great Britain Study Group meets every second month. Call Steve Davis (288-0864).

MODERN CANADA REVIEW (7)

by Mirko Zatka

I suppose the biggest item that arose this spring was the issue of the "Signature" sheets at Canada '92. This was a small printing of 10,000 copies of the Canada '92 souvenir sheets, but on Harrison paper instead of the usual Coated Papers stock, and with the engraved name of the discoverer of Montreal added in the lower margin. The sheets were only available as inserts in the show catalogue, and were sold with it for \$12.

Here comes the rub: while the souvenir sheets are postally valid (they contain the same stamps as in the normal version), they were not available for general distribution at post offices or philatelic counters. Further, they were not available at face value, as a catalogue had to be purchased with them at a total cost of \$12, plus tax I assume. The sheet has a face value of \$2.16. F.I.P., the international philatelic governing body, has taken a very strong position on such issues and has recommended, pursuant to what they believe are contraventions of UPU's Code of Ethics, that they be black-listed. This version of the sheet was clearly issued only for collector purposes and under very restricted conditions.

The souvenir sheets, as you can imagine, have been heavily speculated. The price seems to be influenced by one Canadian dealer in particular. He has been increasing the price by \$10 every two weeks in standing advertisements in CANADIAN STAMP NEWS and LINN'S. Currently at \$80, he predicts the price to reach \$200. Now tell me, is this a reflection of true market value or a case of market manipulation? Does this have a positive impact on stamp collecting in Canada or does it turn you off? Do you believe the sheet is currently worth \$80 or possibly \$200 in the future? Sure, if someone is willing to pay this much for it, then it must be worth it. I remember the old lesson that a stamp is only worth what someone is willing to pay.

Quite frankly, I have a very low opinion of issues of this type and the way this particular 'variety' has been manipulated in the stamp marketplace to the detriment of the hobby. Blacklisting the souvenir sheet seems very appropriate indeed. You may say that this is part of market freedom; anyone can do anything they wish, providing it is legal. However, I challenge the ethics involved in this scheme as a whole.

I see no benefit to the hobby by putting out issues of this type. If this kind of policy is expanded upon, I see the same problems arising here that have plagued some of those funny places like Vanuatu, Grenadines of Grenada, and Sierra Leone (remember the 'Moon' souvenir sheet fiasco?), where their stamp programs are largely driven by the philatelic revenue and certainly not postal need. And no, I am not upset that I did not get some of the sheets, thereby missing an opportunity to possibly enrich myself. Anyone could have bid on the 3300 sheets leftover from the show (and catalogues, of course), if you were willing to offer a minimum bid of \$1200 per 100 and actually buy them in multiples of 100. Most collectors I know routinely dish out \$1200, or \$1500, or \$2000 for \$216 face value in mint Canadian new issues and associated books. I wonder what the dealer is doing with all those catalogues, since probably no one wants them?

Well, enough of that. A number of other new issues have come out over the past three or four months. These include the latest 50¢ Masterpiece of Art stamp (I'm still trying to figure out where the flower is on this one), the Canada Day sheet of twelve 42¢ stamps (interesting, but darn tough to get on a cover). If the stamp paper for this issue had been made in Canada, I could see it as a great way to support the pulp and paper industry due to all the wasted paper that came with it, but alas, the paper is British! The new low value definitives do look nice though. Finally, Canada Post has put out something we can be proud of internationally.

Speaking of low value definitives, the 25¢ Beaver stamp from the last series has been reprinted on Coated Papers stock, untagged. It does not seem to be widely available, and was not announced by Canada Post. It is, however, available from Antigonish. This may be a tough one to find used. The regular version was on Slater paper and was tagged on all four sides.

I apologize for sounding a little put off in this article, but when one looks over the past six months or so at the quality of stamp issues released and the fiascos that accompanied some of them, one really must wonder what is in store for us next. Will the stamp hobby in Canada die off as collectors get tired of Canada Post policies and stamp costs?

If you know of any new varieties or have any comments regarding modern Canada issues, please call me during evenings (before 10 pm) at 547-1435. Better yet, submit an article to the Calgary STAMPede, c/o the Editor, Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7.

CALTAPEX 92

CALTAPEX returns to the Marlborough Inn this year, and will take place from November 13 to 15. Put an exhibit in! There is no entry fee, so you have nothing to lose. One fringe benefit of exhibiting is that it makes more people aware of what you collect and they will think of you if they come across an item that might fit your collection.

Details of the show can be had from Phil Wolf at 259-8750.

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paidup members of the CPS. Mail your ads to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, or hand them to me at the general meetings. Next deadline is November 4 for the November bulletin.

WANTED: Used plate blocks, Centennial and before. Price individually, as a batch, or ask for my offer. Will give generous trade of mint NH Canada for items I need. Call Ed Harris at 274-0021 or see me at any meeting.

FOR SALE: Canada souvenir books 1982 to 1985, for face value of stamps. Call Brenda Rosvick at 274-4712.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Canadian FDC. United Nations, worldwide mint stamps for sale. Call Fred Oelhauph at 289-0852.

FOR SALE: "History of the Calgary Philatelic Society" book now available at \$2 each from Dale Speirs at the general meetings. Mail orders add an additional \$2 for postage and send to CPS, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7.

WANTED: Pages for Pakistan, preferably Scotts fairly recent. Call Julius at 282-7982.

FOR SALE: Canada plate block sets, cat. #570 to #1000, including semi-postals and postage dues. Phone Ned Burnyeat at 279-5205 or see me at any meeting.

WANTED: Canadian postage, paying face less 20%. Call Philip Wolf at 259-8750.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: United Nations and USA collections and sets, classic British colonies, Europe, and Canada. Stationery and postcards late 19th and early 20th century. Topical collections such as Europa, Scouts, Space, etc. Call Jean at 245-0294, days or evenings.

FOR SALE: OLYMPLEX 88 catalogue. Illustrated with articles on Calgary postal history, Olympic and sports philately. Price is postpaid \$6 anywhere, from the CPS, Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6.

WANTED: Modern used stamps of France (Republic only). Can supply used Canada, G.B., N.Z., Australia, U.S.A., etc. Write Bill Heather, 325 - 54 Street, Delta, B.C., V4M 3G6.

FOR SALE: ¼-catalogue collection sale, Germany, Berlin, Australia, New Zealand. Best offer takes it. See Eric at meetings.

WANTED: Used singles from World Cup Soccer souvenir sheets of Italy 1990. Phone Graham at 248-4696.

FOR SALE: Nordic Swans, 1957-58 and odd 1959, 1960 Europa, Canadian singles and plate blocks, some British colonies. Call Harold at 255-7636.

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

1992

October	4		Sunday bourse
	7		General meeting
	21		Auction
	28		Auction
November	1		Sunday bourse
	4		General meeting
	4		Deadline for November STAMPede
	13 to 15		CALTAPEX 92
	18		Auction
	25		Auction
December	2		Wine-and-cheese party
	6		Sunday bourse

1993

January	6		General meeting
	20		Auction
	27		Auction
February	3		General meeting
	17		Auction
	24		Auction
March	3		General meeting
	17		Auction
	24		Auction

AUCTIONS and MEETINGS are at Kerby Centre, second floor, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, at 730 pm. Auction lots should be in before 730 pm to allow bidder viewing.

SUNDAY BOURSES are at American Women's Club, 1010 - 14 Avenue SW, from 10 am to 4 pm. (Please do not park in the vacant lot on the west side of the building.) For details or table rental, contact Walter Jackson at 242-4128.

CALTAPEX 92 is at the Marlborough Inn, 1316 - 33 Street NE. Details from Phil Wolf at 259-8750.